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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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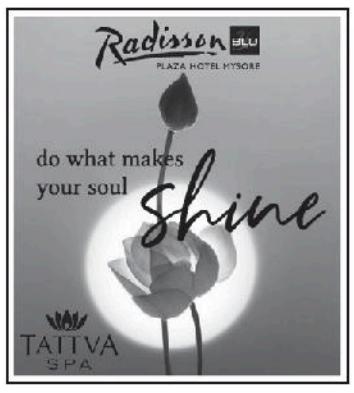


Student protests

Seek food facility at Maharani's Hostel; Condemn steep hike in Engineering College fee; Allege lack of teaching faculty at Yuvaraja's

Mysuru, Dec.7 (PM&DM)- It was a day of student protests in Mysuru as the city was witness to three massive demonstrations at different venues this morning.

Over 200 hostel inmates of Maharani's Science College for Women staged a demonstration in front of Deputy Commissioner's (DC) Office urging for supply of food and adequate water.

Contending that though the B.Sc and M.Sc classes started from Oct.18, the hostel dining facility is yet to commence even after nearly two months. Arguing that water has become a scarce commodity in the hostel with severe shortfall in supplies and hygiene being given a go-by in the premises, the protestors said that repeated representations to the College Principal and the authorities concerned have proved futile.

Stating that most of the hostel inmates are from the surrounding districts of Mysuru and are getting their daily food needs from outside which has resulted in a huge financial burden for them, they said that they were forced to stage the protest as they found no other alternative to draw the attention of the authorities. The hostel students said that they would not withdraw their protest until the Deputy Commissioner hears their grievances.

In another protest, nearly hundred students who have secured Government quota seats in Engineering Colleges, staged a demonstration under the banner of ABVP (Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishat), at Ramaswamy Circle on JLB Road, condemning the steep hike in fees.

(See STUDENT on page 7)

"Change yourself or there'll be changes," PM warns BJP MPs

'Even children do not repeat mistakes. It is not good for me to treat you like children'

New Delhi, Dec. 7 (Agencies)- BJP MPs absent from or irregular in attending the Parliament were pulled up this morning, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi warning them, "change yourself or there will be changes."

In a strong warning, the Prime Minister — who has repeatedly advised his party MPs and Ministers to be disciplined, punctual and not speak out of turn — chided BJP leaders for behaving "like children".

"Please be regular in attending Parliament and meetings. It is not good for me to continuously stress about this (and treat you) like children. If you don't change yourself, there will be changes in due course," the

PM Narendra Modi

Prime Minister said at a meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Party in New Delhi.

Senior Ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were present.

BJP's National President J.P. Nadda was also present.

Modi remarked that when children are pointed out a mistake again and again, even they don't repeat it. He asked the MPs to work for the people of the country. He said, "Do Surya Namaskar and participate in this competition (of attendance), it will keep everyone healthy."

The Prime Minister's words of warning come as the BJP faces a furious opposition in the on-going winter session of the Parliament, with the ruling party cornered on a variety of issues, including 14 civilian deaths after the botched Army operation in Nagaland's Mon district on Saturday.

Dry days from tomorrow 4 pm till midnight of Dec. 10

Public campaigning for MLC polls to close on Dec. 8, 4 pm

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (RK&BCT)- Sale and consumption of liquor has been prohibited for the biennial MLC elections.

Dr. Bagadi

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bagadi Gautham, who is also the District Electoral Officer, has directed shutting down of wine stores and bars in Mysuru city and district for two days from Dec. 8 (tomorrow) in the light of the elections to 25 seats of the Legislative Council on Dec. 10.

In an order, establishments selling liquor have been directed to shut operations from 4 pm on Dec. 8 to the midnight of Dec. 10. With this, all liquor vendors, pubs and bars will remain closed till midnight of Dec. 10 from tomorrow 4 pm in designated areas of the district. All these establishments will start functioning only from the morning of Dec. 11.

"The ban on liquor is to prevent anti-social elements taking advantage of the situation after consuming it and indulging in acts of violence that will disrupt free and fair polling," said the order.

Along with the order, the DC stated that all public campaigning for the MLC polls will come to an end on Dec. 8 at 4 pm.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Tuesday 7th December 2021

Former Health Minister of Kerala visits CIIL

Dr. Rakesh Cherukodu, Principal,Southern Regional Language Centre, CIIL, Mysuru, presenting memento to former Health Minister of Kerala K.K. Shylaja Teacher as others look on.

Mysuru, Dec. 7- K.K. Shailaja Teacher, former Health Minister of Kerala and current MLA from Mattanur Constituency, visited Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) and Southern Regional Language Centre (SRLC) recently along with 8 education experts to know about the functions and facilities of SRLC and CIIL.

Shailaja had a discussion with language faculties and observed the Teaching Learning Process and Research Works of SRLC.

After M. Venkatesan, LLT, explained about the SRLC Language Lab, Shailaja expressed her interest of collaboration with SRLC academically in future for the implementation of Comprehensive Educational Programme which includes Educational Development, Establishment of Language Laboratory, Career Guidance, Counselling Cell and structure of New School System.

Dr. Narayan Kumar Choudhary, Assistant Director of CIIL and Dr. Rakesh Cherucodu, Principal of the SRLC, were present during her visit.

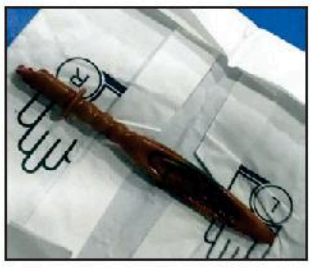
EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

When the Omicron variant of the immortal COVID virus first made its appearance, there was some suspense over pronunciation. The inbuilt honorific 'O' demands a deep bow, some felt. Others questioned the fixation with Greek names. The rest of us, who successfully avoided saying Iota, Alpha or Delta so far, have decided to bleep it out. Just when it became safe to clear throats once again without everyone acting like a bomb went off comes this! Regret over not utilising the window between variants is scowling up many a face. Should have gone for the alumni meet, played kho kho, married someone … Which brings us to the next question about Omicron: hot air or hitman?

Having set out on a world tour from South Africa, the variant has been spotted backpacking all over. The doubly vaccinated are suddenly unsure: Go back to hibernate in their caves, or frantically party before any lockdown is announced? The double-masked, dismissed as paranoid by the unmasked, are calling for triple-masking. Parents won't let you go out and your children don't come back in; current doublespeak involves pooh-poohing, variant and exaggerating panic. Astrologers who predicted a breezy December are mumbling about eclipse and retrograde. All that soothing talk by theatres about air sterilisation devices and cinema-scope releases has no audience anymore. Those who booked tickets to everywhere gloomily await travel bans and endless quarantines as nostalgia for jet lag and flight turbulence only grows stronger. High expectations of 2022 making it up to us are slowly headed for the trashcan. Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon says Christmas plans maybe put in jeopardy by the new strain. But Karl Lauter-bach, a clinical epidemiologist who could be Germany's new Health Minister, says it could well be a Christmas gift, speeding up the pandemic's end. *— Shinie Antony in The Times of India*

NEWS SPARKLERS

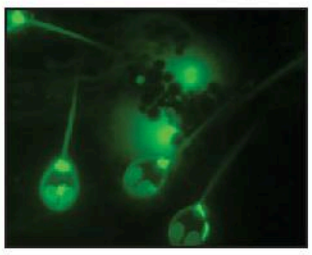
Doctors remove 'Stick' from woman's coccyx



Al-Khalis: Doctors at a hospital in Iraq recently conducted a complicated operation to extract a mysterious foreign body from the coccyx of a woman who had been paraplegic for two years.

A 50-year-old woman who had been paraplegic for two years recently found out that she had a mysterious foreign object lodged in her coccyx. Doctors from the Internal Medicine Department for Women at Al-Khalis General Hospital, in Al-Khalis conducted a series of tests, including X-rays and noticed something odd in the coccyx area. There was a long foreign body that seemed to have penetrated her spine, so she was scheduled for emergency surgery. At the end of a complicated operation, the doctors extracted a wand-like lacquered wooden fragment from the woman's body.

This parasite can survive without oxygen



Tel Aviv: Henneguya salminicola, a tadpole-like parasite that infects salmon, has a rather unique superpower – it can survive without oxygen.

When examining Henneguya salminicola, researchers noticed something really strange: the microscopic parasite appeared to have no mitochondrial genome. At first, scientists at Tel Aviv University thought it was a mistake, so they ran the analysis again, and confirmed that the parasite had no mitochondrial genome at all, meaning it did not generate energy the way all other known animals do. Although other single-cell organisms, like amoebas and fungi, have also developed the ability to survive in anaerobic environments, no animals – Henneguya salminicola qualifies as one despite having less than 10 cells – had been known to do that until now.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Limit saturated fats.
Saturated fats are mainly found in tropical oils, dairy, and red meat and should be limited to no more than 10% of your daily calorie intake. Enjoy dairy in moderation and vary the protein sources in your diet, opting for fish, skinless chicken, eggs, and vegetarian sources of protein where you can.

By Kavya J - Department of Nutrition & Dietetics

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Applications invited for Vidyasiri Scholarship Scheme

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (ASC)- The Minorities Welfare Department has invited applications from eligible minority community students (Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis) for availing various benefits under Vidyasiri Scholarship Scheme for 2021-22.

The selection of students will be based on the availability of grants and the marks secured by them. The eligible students can download the application form from the Department website *[http://dom.karnataka.gov.in]* or visit the concerned Minority Help Desk Centre and submit the online application form in the Seva Sindhu Portal.

The filled-in application forms must be submitted along with all necessary documents to the Minority Welfare Department Office located at Moulana Azad Bhavan, beside Shobha Garden, opposite Dandinamaramma Temple, Mysuru-Bengaluru Road, Mysuru-570007 before Dec. 31. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2422088; or Mob: 79757-57971 or 89510-87207.

REALLY...?

- ***Best National Expressway: The Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway is known as one of the best expressways in India, and is also referred to as National Expressway 1. The 95-km-long express highway connects Ahmedabad and Vadodara, and was constructed under the Golden Quadrilateral Project by NHAI in 2004.***
- ***Longest Elevated Freeway: Port Maduravoyal Elevated Expressway will be the longest elevated expressway of the country with a total length of 19 kms. It's under construction in Chennai with Maduravoyal Grade Separator or Maduravoyal Junction at the intersection of National Highway.***
- ***Largest Cloverleaf Interchange: The Kathipara Junction of Chennai is the largest cloverleaf interchange in India, and the largest cloverleaf flyover in the whole of Asia.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Little girl to an old lady: 'My teacher says little girls can grow up to be anything they choose! Then, why did you choose to be an old lady?!'

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.28
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 99.99
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.49
1 Euro	= Rs. 84.96

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

	DECEMBER 5	DECEMBER 6
Day's Positive Cases	10	16
Total Positive Cases	1,79,921	1,79,937
Day's Discharges	5	55
Total Discharges	1,77,182	1,77,237
Day's Deaths	1	0
Total Deaths	2,432	2,432
Total Active Cases	307	268

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

VOICE OF THE READER

Woes at Paschimavahini

Sir,

I wish to highlight various problems people face at Paschimavahini (near Srirangapatna) while on visit to immerse ashes of dead relatives there.

Vehicle parking is a big issue here. Then a person follows you demanding 'immersion charge' of Rs.100 per pot, which seems a new levy. When asked, we are told that it is for upkeeping the area, but a look at the surrounding proves it wrong. No cleaning anywhere, what with flowers, torn clothes, plantain leaves, vermilion, other puja materials and leftover food haphazardly strewn around.

The entire area stinks so bad that one thinks of leaving the place as fast as possible.

Besides, stray dogs freely roam all over. Beggars too galore, not to say about the suppliers at a nearby food joint who politely demand tips for their entire team numbering around 15.

All these makes one vow not to visit the place again. Will the concerned take note and initiate action to eliminate the hardships to people who are already aggrieved by losing a precious member in the family?

—N. Devarajan
on e-mail

Nanjangud
4.12.2021

GRAAM ties up with NITI Aayog

To strengthen monitoring and evaluation of Govt. policies

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM), a leading research and public engagement organisation, inked a Statement of Intent (SoI) with the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog, for strategic and technical collaboration to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of Government policies and programmes in India.

Dr. Sekhar Bonu** (left), **Director General, DMEO, NITI Aayog seen with Dr. R. Balasubramaniam** (centre), **Chairman, GRAAM and Dr. Basavaraju, Executive Director, GRAAM, in New Delhi.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Sekhar Bonu, Director General, DMEO, Alok Mishra, Deputy Director General, DMEO, NITI Aayog officials and GRAAM's Chairman Dr. R. Balasubramaniam along with other staff in New Delhi recently. The memorandum on behalf of GRAAM was signed by its Executive Director Dr. Basavaraju R. Shreshta.

Dr. Balasubramaniam said, "Evaluation agencies play a critical role in implementing data driven programmes and undertaking policy evaluations with focus on quality and standard of the programmes. There is a need to strengthen and encourage them further." GRAAM will provide technical assistance to DMEO in preparation of technical and/or policy documents, conduct joint studies, and facilitate capacity building programmes on monitoring and evaluation of Government policies and programmes for public officials at the Centre and States, local researchers, regional institutions and other stakeholders.

"We are privileged to partner with DMEO of NITI Aayog as we consider this partnership to reach grassroots voices, realities and experience blended with scientific research to the policy makers and there cannot be better platform than NITI Aayog. Community Engagement is key to not only understand the problem, but also design solutions," said Dr. Basavaraju.

Dr. Bonu spoke about DMEO's plans for working with States for strengthening M&E ecosystem. He appreciated the steps taken by Karnataka Government for a State-level Evaluation Authority.

Schools to be closed again if situation arises

Bengaluru, Dec. 7 (Agencies)- The Karnataka Government may decide to shut down schools, stop exams if required, amid rising COVID cases among students. "We will not backtrack if a need arises to stop exams and schools. However, in the present situation, all the experts are of the opinion that there is no problem," Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh said yesterday.

B.C. Nagesh

Noting that the Government is closely monitoring the situation, the Minister said that the Government will make alternative arrangements with a view to avoid any problem. "If required we will stop exams. However, the Standard Operating Procedure is maintained strictly in the exams because we make sitting arrangements maintaining physical distance," Nagesh said.

"There is no need for people to panic because this year we started regular schools after a year of lockdown. In case schools are shut again then it will be difficult to bring back children to the classes," Nagesh said.

Assuring parents, the Minister said the Education Department will take stringent measures in case it is felt that the COVID-19 situation is going to impact children's health.

A large number of students and staff of a medical college in Hubballi-Dharwad tested positive for COVID. Meanwhile, pandemic clusters have emerged among students of residential schools in Bengaluru Rural, Mysuru and Chikkamagaluru.

Contacts of Omicron patients asymptomatic: Dr. Sudhakar

'Comparing Omicron to Delta, reports of severity of disease is not seen anywhere'

Bengaluru, Dec. 7 (Agencies)- Five contacts of a doctor in Bengaluru infected by the Omicron variant of COVID-19 have no symptoms of the disease and this shows the importance of vaccinations, Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said yesterday.

Dr. Sudhakar

Three primary contacts — immediate family members of the doctor — and two secondary contacts who tested positive have been in isolation and under observation at a Government facility over the past week.

They are suspected to have contracted the infection from the doctor who tested positive on Nov. 22 — despite having no travel history. The doctor, a resident of Bengaluru, was found on Dec. 2 to have been infected with Omicron, following genomic sequencing of his samples.

The genomic sequencing reports for the five contacts of the doctor are yet to be provided to the Health Department, the Minister said. "There are no symptoms in the contacts of the person infected with the new variant. They are not facing any complications or severity (of the disease). They are admitted to the Bowring Hospital and I am in touch with the Director of the Hospital," the Minister said.

"The mild nature of infection in the contacts may be because they are fully vaccinated. This is the reason why we believe there will not be severity in those who are vaccinated. This is why we are asking people to complete two doses of vaccination," Dr. Sudhakar said.

"We do not have to be too concerned with this variant. We handled the Delta variant which had a higher level of severity. If we compare Omicron to Delta, then we are not seeing reports of severity of disease anywhere in the world. The only concern is the rapid transmissibility of the variant and to prevent this we need people to be vaccinated," he said.

"In any pandemic, if you look at history, it is the second wave that is the most severe. The third wave is usually of less intensity than the second wave. This is the historical evidence for pandemics. Even if there is a third or fourth wave it may be less severe and then it dies out," he said.

"Children were not badly affected by the second wave when the Delta variant was predominant. The sense now is that this variant will not affect children either. This is what scientists are saying," Dr. Sudhakar said.

State-level Job Fair

for specially-abled on Dec.11

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Bengaluru, will be conducting a State-level Udyoga Mela (Job Fair) exclusively for specially-abled persons at Manpho Bell Hotel and Convention Centre located near Majestic in Bengaluru on Dec.11.

Barring mentally-retarded persons, all other specially-abled people, having qualifications such as SSLC, PUC, Diploma or Degree, can take part in this Job Fair. The participants are required to carry a minimum of 3 copies of their biodata, 3 passport size photographs and other necessary documents.

Interested candidates can register through *https://www.samarthanam.org/job-fair.* For details call Mob: 63648-67795 or 94498-64693 or 63648-67818.

Nationwide General Strike on Feb. 23 and 24

New Delhi, Dec. 7 (SSM)- A joint platform of ten Central Trade Unions has given a call for a nationwide general strike on Feb. 23 and 24 during the Budget Session of the Parliament.

The strike is against the 'anti-people, anti-worker and anti-national destructive policies' of the Modi Government with the slogan "Save the People and Save the Nation."

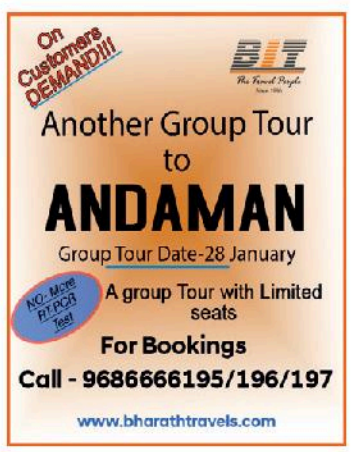
The Unions also decided to hold joint preparatory public meetings in coordination with Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF and UTUC are among those who have called for strike.

Free dialysis at Mission Hospital

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (KS)- CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital (Mission Hospital), in order to celebrate Christmas in a meaningful and service-oriented way, has established a free dialysis centre for poor patients at its premises in Mandi Mohalla here.

Free dialysis procedure for the poor patients will be held till Dec. 31 and those suffering from kidney aliments can register their names and make use of this opportunity, according to Mission Hospital Director Vincent Palanna.



NEWS BRIEFS

Lakshmi Puja

As part of its 28th anniversary, Agastya Credit Co-operative Society Ltd., Mysuru, has organised *Lakshmi Puja* at the Society's main office in Krishnamurthypuram today (Dec. 7) at 6 pm. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2330014 or 2334140, according to a press release.

Power disruption tomorrow

Owing to maintenance works taken up by Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC), power supply will be disrupted tomorrow (Dec. 8) between 10 am and 6 pm in the following areas: Mahadeshwara Layout, Trinetra Circle, Gokulam 2nd Stage, Contour Road and surrounding areas, according to a press release from the Executive Engineer (EE), V.V. Mohalla Division, CESC, Mysuru.

Skill training for young engineers

The city's Techref Solutions Pvt. Ltd., located at Salvak Square, Maruthi Temple Circle, Sahukar Chennaiah Road, T.K. Layout, will be conducting a free job- based skill training for BE Graduates, Diploma and ITI holders, under Kaushalya Karnataka scheme. Admission is open to both men and women job aspirants from General Category, SC/ST categories. The training is offered in Software Development and Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning. For details, contact Mob: 97421-60670 or 99161-03940, according to a press release.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80 feet
Today	:	124.80 feet
Yesterday	:	124.80 feet
Inflow	:	4,576 cusecs
Outflow	:	4,367 cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00 feet
Today	:	2,283.73 feet
Inflow	:	1,382 cusecs
Outflow	:	1,000 cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00 feet
Today	:	2,855.67 feet
Inflow	:	57 cusecs
Outflow	:	1,050 cusecs

Heritage Vasanth Mahal needs urgent facelift

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (SPN&BCT)- The beautifully designed Vasanth Mahal at Nazarbad that houses the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) run by the State Government is in danger of being another mansion that is likely to lose importance in the heritage map due to sheer neglect and lack of maintenance.

Like almost all heritage structures in the Heritage City of Mysuru maintained by various Government Departments, this aesthetically built Mahal too leaks uncontrollably whenever it rains. Though DIET functions from the premises, entry is free for all as there are no restrictions for mischief-mongers who enter the premises in the name of playing cricket.

At night, the Vasanth Mahal is a favourite joint for anti-social elements who indulge in illegal activities and despite Police complaints being lodged by DIET Principal and DDPI (Development), no action has been taken so far. These mischief-mongers enter the campus in daylight and disturb the academic atmosphere there and also cause damage to the walls and window panes.

The situation is worse during rains. Concrete and limestone chips fall off from the wall and at many places the building leaks. The corners of the building are unable to withstand the pressure from rainwater collected on the ceiling and slowly, almost all the corners have started leaking of late.

The Vasanth Mahal which stands on a 36-acre landscape and nestled amidst lush green ambience, was built in 1842 by the then ruler of Mysuru. The speciality of this Palace is that its front portion is made of soft iron. Compare Vasanth Mahal with the Karanji Vilas Palace — (also called Karanji Mansion) that houses the Postal Training Centre of the Union Government — and the latter is well maintained.

After entering the Palace, one can see a large portico which connects the other parts of the building. Sadly, a beautiful piece of architecture that Vasanth Mahal is, it is sad to note that this wonderful heritage structure has become a victim of official apathy and negligence.

Who should maintain?

Though DIET functions from the premises of Vasanth Mahal, there is a tussle over its maintenance — whether the building must be maintained by the Department of Heritage, Museums and Archaeology or the Department of Public Instruction, that runs the DIET. Due to this constant conflict and shifting of responsibilities, the heritage building has become a victim.

The first floor of the Vasanth Mahal resembles the ground floor. The huge, oval-shaped hall was used as a royal dining and living area. The same pattern of structure is repeated in the second and third floors. The columns are reminiscent of Tuscan Style of Architecture and the whole Palace has a unique sense of modernity and simplicity.

When Jayachamaraja Wadiyar was the first Governor of Mysore State, he formed a trust in the name of Rajakumari Meenakshi Devi and registered the same.

Over the years the State Government paid money to the trust and took possession of land and the building. Later, the building was transferred to the Department of Public Instruction.

In 2019, the Department had written to the Department of Heritage underlining an urgent need to repair the structure. The Heritage Department prepared a proposal to repair the structure at an estimated cost of 2.79 crore and sent back the recommendations to the Department of Public instruction. The proposal was sent to the Government later but nothing has moved so far.

Gundlupet Police put brakes on overspeeding tipper vehicles

Stringent action will be taken against rash and negligent driving: Sub-Inspector Rajendra

Gundlupet, Dec. 7 (SOMG& KS)- In a bid to prevent fatal accidents due to rash movement of tipper vehicles in the town, Gundlupet Police have begun cracking down of speeding tipper vehicles and penalising them.

Mining activities have increased in Gundlupet surroundings and in Begur limits as mining activity in Srirangapatna surroundings of Mandya district has come to a standstill. This has resulted in the increase of movement of tipper vehicles on the National Highway.

Due to demand for white stones, mining for these stones has intensified in Gummakallugudda near Gundlupet, Belachalawadi, Arepura, Hirikati, Tondawadi, Chikkati and other places. As the mining takes place day and night, the movement of tipper vehicles carrying these stones to crushers have also increased.

These tippers are not only over-loaded but also move on the National Highway in a rash and negligent manner resulting in frequent accidents which has caused a sense of fear among other motorists.

Despite increased movement of tippers, the officials of the Regional Transport Office (RTO) have turned a blind eye towards it, residents alleged and added that tippers with a loading capacity of 15 tonnes were carrying 38 to 40 tonnes of stones.

The height of the tippers' container body has been increased by a feet without taking permission from the RTO and have been transporting excess stones besides the drivers of these tipper vehicles are seen constantly speaking over mobile phones while driving these heavy vehicles, which was resulting in frequent accidents, the residents said.

Recently, a KRSTC bus proceeding towards Mysuru was hit by a speeding tipper vehicle resulting in five passengers sustaining serious injuries. The following day, another tipper rammed into a man identified as Srinivasa Shetty of Hongalli village in front of KSRTC Bus Stand leaving him seriously injured. He has been admitted to a hospital in Mysuru.

Following frequent accidents, the public had expressed anger against the RTO officials and the Police; the video had also gone viral on social media.

Now, the Police, led by Gundlupet Town Sub-Inspector Rajendera, who have begun their operation to crackdown speeding tipper vehicles, are conducting checking of documents of all tipper vehicles and have also begun penalising overspeeding tippers with the help of Interceptor vehicles.

Sub-Inspector Rajendra said that if any driver is found driving tippers in a rash and negligent manner, stringent action will be taken against the driver.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Shivashankarappa, Head Constable Mahesh, Ravi and others took part in the checking drive.

Student electrocuted

Nanjangud, Dec. 7 (MC&KS)- A 21-year-old student was reportedly electrocuted while removing the name board of the tuition centre here yesterday evening.

Srinivas

The deceased student is Srinivas, son of Manjunath of Thyagaraja Colony, who was pursuing his degree course.

On Monday evening, Srinivas, along with his friend, was removing the name board of the tuition centre located on the 6th Cross of Rashtrapathi Road, when the iron frame of the name board came in contact with the overhead power lines electrocuting Srinivas, who collapsed on the spot. Though he was being rushed to a hospital, he is said to have breathed his last on the way to the hospital.

A case has been registered at Nanjangud Town Police Station.

Ex-Serviceman found dead in car

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (MK&KS)- An ex-serviceman was found dead in his car in Ashokapuram Police limits yesterday.

The deceased has been identified as Rajakumar (40), a native of Bindiganavile in Nagamangala taluk, who was residing in a rented house at Jayanagar here. His body was found in his car parked on Adichunchanagiri Road.

After taking retirement from service, Rajakumar had opted for driving profession.

Police have suspected that he may have died due to suffocation as the windows of the car were closed or may have suffered a heart attack. A case has been registered at Ashokapuram Police Station.

Political rivalry ends in shooting

Bullet fired in the dark misses target; two arrested

Kanti Cariappa

Pappu Thimmaiah

Madikeri, Dec. 7 (PS&BCT)- A long-standing rivalry between two individuals from two political parties came back to haunt Chettalli village in Kodagu when one person fired at the other one on Sunday night. Fortunately, the bullet missed the target.

Putharira Pappu Thimmaiah, a Congress worker in Chettalli-Siddapura region, has been arrested for opening fire at Ballaranda Kanti Cariappa at Abyathmangala village. Kanti, the son of BJP leader Ballaranda Mani Uthappa, is a Gram Panchayat member and is a known BJP activist in the region.

Kanti was returning from a wedding in Madikeri along with his wife on a bike. Knowing that Kanti was attending the wedding, Pappu Thimmaiah was waiting for him to return and was along with two to three persons in a car. Pappu Thimmaiah had participated in a coconut shooting competition at Nelaji village on Sunday.

As the bike reached Abbyala near Abyathmangala at around 10pm, Pappu Thimmaiah opened fire and as Kanti was speeding, the bullet missed the target. Kanti told the Police that he had seen Pappu Thimmaiah getting out of the car with his gun. Shocked by the development, Kanti Cariappa lodged a Police complaint with the Madikeri Rural Police.

Pappu Thimmaiah had a long-standing dispute with Kanti Cariappa and as they belonged to different political parties, the rivalry only increased. Both of them had contested the Gram Panchayat elections and while Kanti won, Pappu lost. Both of them indulged in posting adverse comments on social media.

Madikeri Rural Circle Inspector Ravikiran has arrested Pappu Thimmaiah and the gun has been seized. An attempt to murder case has been registered and the accused has been sent to judicial custody. The Police have also arrested Chethan, another Congress worker for threatening an LLB student from Mysuru asking him not to report the firing incident.

The student has a house near the place where Pappu Thimmaiah had opened fire and he had come out of the house as he had heard the gunshot. Chethan allegedly called up the student and also sent messages to his mobile threatening him not to report the firing incident to the Police. A case of destroying evidence has been booked on Chethan.

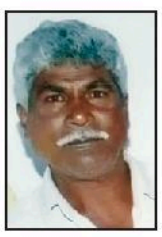
Based on Kanti's complaint that two more persons were in the car along with Pappu Thimmaiah, the Police are looking for more clues and are collecting details.

Obituary

Srikanth

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Srikanth (54), Proprietor of Sri Consultant and a resident of Alanahalli, passed away in the wee hours of today following a heart attack. Son of late Chandrashekar Aradhya, Srikanth leaves behind his wife Preethi, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Ashwath Narayanachar



Ashwath Narayanachar (68), retired KEB employee and a resident of Jyothinagar, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind two sons, one daughter, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Journalist Rajendra

Kollegal: Rajendra (56), a senior journalist and a resident of the town, passed away yesterday following a heart attack.

He leaves behind his mother, wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed yesterday evening in the town, according to family sources.

V. Girijamba

K.R. Pet: V. Girijamba, a resident of Bommalapura in the taluk, passed away on Sunday.

She leaves behind one daughter, four sons, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Bommalapura yesterday, according to family sources.

Neelakurinji flowers bloom at BRT now

No entry for public as it is under Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (BCT)- The Neelakurinji flowers (Strobilanthes Kunthiana) that had mesmerised thousands of tourists and localites for more than a month at Mandalpatti and Kotebetta Hills of Kodagu District has now bloomed at Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve, in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district.

The flowering of these rare blue and purplish flowers has been tweeted by the Karnataka Forest Department officials at the BRT. The flowers had also taken the hills of Chikkamagalur by storm.

When it bloomed at all the hills of Mandalpatti, it was a sight to behold and thousands of tourists made a beeline to witness a rare phenomenon where the flowers bloom once every seven or 12 years. So much was the attraction that a private aviation company from Bengaluru even organised helicopter rides for the rich and affluent to have breath-taking views.

At BRT now, the flowers have blossomed on the mountains at Byluru forests, grasslands of Honnameti Estate and Punajanuru wildlife range. The whole mountain looks like it is covered with a blue-purple carpet. However, unlike Mandalpatti and Kote Betta, tourists will not be allowed to see the flowers as the entire belt comes under the limits of Tiger Reserve.

Due to the rare bloom now, it is like an endless stretch of rolling hills carpeted with tiny purplish blue flowers. It is this time of the year such flowers (also called Neelakurinji in Kerala) with 40-odd varieties, blossom in all its grandeur.

These flowers usually bloom in the Western Ghats and the BRT is a place where both the Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats meet. It extends till the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu. The hills are separated by the Moyar River from the Karnataka Plateau to the north.

As there is no chance for tourists to see the flowers, BRT Range Deputy Conservator of Forests Santosh Kumar has posted a series of photographs on Twitter where clouds are seen hovering over the purple mountains.

"I have witnessed the Neelakurinji blooming here for the first time. This would be recorded as per the norms. Besides, it would be verified whether the Department has recorded about Neelakurinji flowers in the region earlier," he said.

CIIL and Koo App collaborate to promote fair use of language

Koo Co-Founder Aprameya Radhakrishana** (left) **and CIIL Director Prof. Shailendra Mohan after signing the MoU.

Mysuru, Dec. 7- To clamp down on the misuse and abuse of social media and promote fair use of language, the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in Mysuru has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bombinate Technologies Pvt. Ltd., the holding company of India's multi-lingual micro-blogging platform — Koo.

CIIL, which was established by the Government of India to coordinate the development of Indian languages, will work jointly with the Koo App to strengthen its content moderation policies and help users stay safe and secure online. This collaboration will work towards safeguarding users from online abuse, bullying & threats and build a transparent & conducive ecosystem.

Through the collaboration, CIIL will create a corpus of expressions including words, phrases, abbreviations and acronyms that are considered offensive or sensitive across 22 languages of the VIII scheduled of the Constitution of India. In turn, the Koo App will share relevant data to create the corpus and provide technological support to build interfaces that will host the corpus for public access.

This is a long-term collaboration for developing responsible use of Indian languages on social media and it will be valid for two years by providing users with a secure and immersive networking experience across languages.

The path-breaking exercise between CIIL and the Koo App aims to develop dictionaries of words and expressions in Indian languages that are considered offensive, disrespectful or derogatory, enabling efficient content moderation in these languages. This kind of initiative has not been implemented before in the Indian context.

As an inclusive platform for self-expression in native Indian languages, the Koo App currently offers its innovative features across nine languages and will soon expand to cover all the 22 official Indian languages.

Health Dept. to host three-day workshop for folk art troupes

To educate on National Health Programmes

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (BNR)- The District Health and Family Welfare Department, in association with the District Administration and Zilla Panchayat (ZP), will be holding a 'Mysuru Divisional-level Workshop for Folk Art Troupes' at the HR Centre of Shree Kshetra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) in T.C. Trust, Sankalpa Soudha Building B-Block, near Kalasthavadi on Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway from Dec. 8 to 10.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* about the workshop, M. Muneendramma, Deputy District Health Education Officer, Mysuru, said: "Heads of various art troupes from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Kodagu, Chikmagalur, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts will be attending the workshop where they will be educated/ trained on various National Programmes of the Health Department and on how to create awareness regarding these National Programmes at rural level."

Bengaluru's Health and Family Welfare Services District Health Education Officer Jnaneshwar, Deputy District Helath Education Officer Vishweshwaraiah, Mysuru Divisional Health Education Officer S. Prakash, Krishna Janamana from Rangayana and Vikas Chandra from Kannada & Culture Department will be the resource persons for the workshop.

The workshop will be inaugurated by ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh at 11 am tomorrow (Dec. 8). District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. K.H. Prasad will preside. Bengaluru's Health and Family Welfare Services Joint Director Dr. Suresh Shastri, Mysuru Division's Health and Family Welfare Services Divisional Joint Director Dr. M.R. Udaykumar, Mysuru Division's Health and Family Welfare Services Deputy Director Dr. T. Amarnath, Department of Information and Public Relations Assistant Director R. Raju, Kannada & Culture Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy, Rangayana Mysuru Director Addanda C. Cariappa, District Reproductive and Child Health Officer (RCHO) Dr. M.S. Jayanth and District Family Welfare Officer Dr. P. Ravi and others will be present.

Panache's Fashion Collective

The two-day fashion collective designer expo, organised by Panache at The Quorum Hotel on Vinoba Road in city, began this morning. Seen in the picture are** (from left) **Kavitha from Simply Women, Organisers Nishat Mohsin & Misba Umrean, Rita and Archana from Bengaluru. The expo will be open for public today and tomorrow between 11 am and 8 pm.

Students stage protest

(Continued from page 1)

Maintaining that the fees last year for Government quota seats was Rs.58,806 and Rs. 65,340 (inclusive of University fee), they claimed that the Government has abnormally hiked the fees to Rs.83,526 and Rs.90,060 respectively this year, which is a whopping 40 percent. This apart, the Government has asked Engineering Colleges to collect an additional fee of nearly Rs.40,000 as miscellaneous and skill development fees, which is a huge burden on the students who are already reeling under the effects of COVID pandemic.

Urging the Government to roll back the fee hike in the larger interest of poor students, they warned of intensifying the strike if the Government failed to withdraw the hike and keep the fees the same as that of last year.

ABVP Mysuru Unit office-bearers Shivu, Shyam, Vinoda and others led the protest.

In yet another protest, students of Yuvaraja College staged a demonstration in front of the College alleging lack of teaching faculty. They carried placards that read 'Faculty First - Exam Next' and such other slogans.

Stating that the College lacked regular faculty in Departments such as Bio-Technology, Computer Science, Microbiology and MBA, the students claimed that no Bio-technology classes have been held so far and the classes for MBA course is yet to start even two months after the commencement of the academic year (2021-22).

Maintaining that repeated pleas to University of Mysore Vice-Chancellor and other concerned authorities for recruitment of guest faculty have fallen on deaf ears, they said that they are deprived of academics due to no fault of theirs.

Stating that they are withdrawing the protest for the day as the authorities have promised to address the issue by tomorrow, they warned of staging an indefinite protest in front of Crawford Hall from tomorrow if the promise is not met.

Ex-Minister questions Siddharamaiah on contesting from Badami

Siddharamaiah

Chimmanakatti

Badami (Bagalkot District), Dec. 7- In an embarrassing moment for Opposition Leader and former Chief Minister Siddharamaiah, senior Congress leader from Badami and former Minister B.B. Chimmanakatti questioned the former CM on why he opted for Badami while he had every chance of winning from Varuna Assembly segment in his home district of Mysuru in the last Assembly polls.

Addressing a Congress party poll rally for the MLC polls at Badami yesterday, Chimmanakatti, who was a prominent Minister in R. Gundu Rao Cabinet in the 1980s, said that Siddharamaiah was not welcome in Badami anymore.

Asking Siddharamaiah to contest from his home district, Chimmanakatti, a five-time MLA from Badami, observed that the former CM would have easily won from Varuna had he contested the seat in the 2018 polls. Wondering why Siddu chose to contest from Chamundeshwari Assembly segment, which he eventually lost, the former Minister opined that Siddu's contest from Badami had deprived opportunities for local leaders.

B.B.Chimmanakatti asks former CM to contest from Varuna in 2023 polls

Asserting that he would contest from Badami as the Congress candidate in the next Assembly polls, Chimmanakatti also expressed his disappointment that the former CM did not keep his word on making him (Chimmanakatti) an MLC. He reiterated that Siddharamaiah should contest from Varuna in the 2023 polls.

Though Siddharamaiah was present on the dais, he chose not to respond to Chimmanakatti's remarks targeting him.

MCC clears encroachment by Karunapura Church

Iron grills installed by Yesu Karunalaya Church (Karunapura Church) by encroaching upon public place was demolished by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) in the early hours of today. Following a Court order, the MCC team led by Zone-7 Assistant Commissioner conducted the operation at about 5 am today under tight Police security and cleared the encroachments.

Draft electoral rolls for South Graduates Constituency ready

Public can file objections till Dec.27

Mysuru, Dec.7 (SBD&DM)- The Election Commission has prepared the draft electoral rolls for the Legislative Council polls from South Graduates Constituency, which is due next year.

In a press release, Mysuru Regional Commissioner, who is also the Electoral Officer for the polls, said that the draft electoral rolls has been put up in the Offices of Mysuru Regional Commissioner, Offices of the Deputy Commissioners of Mysuru, Mandya, Hassan and Chamarajanagar districts, the Offices of the Assistant Commissioners and Taluk Offices in these districts, Office of the MCC Deputy Commissioner and MCC Council Secretary.

The members of public can go through it during office hours and file their objections to the list or make claims on addition of names (Form 18), if any, before Dec.27 in the prescribed form, at the Offices mentioned above, the release said.

The release further said that the final list of eligible voters will be published on Jan.17, 2022.

Auto driver murdered in Srirangapatna

Gajendra

Srirangapatna, Dec. 7 (Vinay Karekura&BCT) - An auto driver on his way to lift goods was waylaid and murdered at K. Shettihalli village in Srirangapatna in the wee hours of today or late last night. He has been identified as 25-year-old Gajendra of Hosakote in Anekal Taluk of Bengaluru. The crime came to light when passersby noticed the goods auto parked on the road. The side windshield of the vehicle was shattered. When they searched the surroundings, they found a dead body in a marshy land near the road.

The Police were informed and his identity was established through the drivers licence obtained from the body. The killers had hacked him to death and stab wounds were found on his body, the Police said.

'Kodavas have contributed a lot for the country's Armed Forces'

Kannada Sahitya Parishat President at 'Siachen' book release

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (RKB&DM)- Stating that Kodavas have contributed a lot for the country's Armed Forces, with top commanders such as Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, Gen. K.S. Thimayya and Gen. G.G. Bewoor heading our Forces, Kannada Sahitya Parishat President *Nadoja* Dr. Mahesh Joshi regretted the tendency among the people to forget our Soldiers after any border crisis or skirmishes tides over.

He was speaking after inaugurating the programme organised by Dhatri Prakashana for the release of writer S. Umesh's Kannada work 'Siachen,' at Kalamandira here on Sunday.

Noting that our Soldiers were waging a bloody war against the Chinese at the country's borders in 1962 at a time when the entire country was celebrating *Deepavali,* Joshi said that everyone must remember that Soldiers will sacrifice their tomorrow for the sake of our well-being and safety. Asserting that the country will look to Soldiers for safeguarding our citizens during times of crisis, Joshi bemoaned the tendency to forget Soldiers after the crisis gets over.

'Saraswathi Samman' awardee Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa** (third from right) **releasing the Kannada book 'Siachen,' authored by S. Umesh** (extreme right), **at a programme organised by Dhatri Prakashana at Kalamandira in city on Sunday. Others seen are** (from left) **Brunda Umesh, former Sarada Vilas College Principal Prof. M. Nataraj, Kannada Sahitya Parishat President 'Nadoja' Dr. Mahesh Joshi and former Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Chairman and veteran writer Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta.

Recalling the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Joshi, citing the example of Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, said that during a war with Pakistan in the 1960s, the Field Marshal's son was captured by Pakistani Soldiers. Subsequently, the then Pakistan President Ayub Khan told Field Marshal Cariappa that his (Cariappa) captured son would soon be released as a special privilege. But rejecting Ayub Khan's offer, the Field Marshal told the Pak President that all those captured by the Pak Army were his children and as such his son should not be treated specially and that he be released along with all those captured. Such was the dedication that the Field Marshal had, he noted.

Outlining his future plans for Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Joshi said that he has plans for launching a membership drive, with a target of 1 crore membership.

Expressing delight that he happened to share stage with literary giants such as Dr. S.L. Bhyarappa and Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta in his first programme at Mysuru after he was elected as the Sahitya Parishat President last month, he said that S. Umesh's work 'Siachen' explains in detail, the valour and courage of our Soldiers during the Siachen conflict along the country's international border.

Saraswathi Samman awardee Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, who spoke after releasing the book, said that it is important to give books in the form of gift. Pointing out that writer S. Umesh's 'Siachen' book is highly worthy for presenting it as a gift to others, Dr. Bhyrappa called upon the people to develop the habit of reading books. He also stressed on the need for buying Kannada books.

Former Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Chairman and veteran writer Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta said that author Umesh has written the book after visiting Siachen, where he had gone by obtaining permission from the Union Home Ministry.

He maintained that the book presents a geographical features of Siachen Glacier as seen through his eyes, where eggs have to be broken by hammers and hot water gets frozen even before it could be filled to containers, he opined that the book explains in detail how our Soldiers fought valiantly amid highly inclement and chilling cold weather and how they are protecting our country's borders.

Noting that in the past our Soldiers did not have a weather-proof jacket and also were short of food, Dr. Gurudatta said that the book explains how our Soldiers at the borders are getting bullet-proof vests, other protective gears and food after Narendra Modi became the PM.

Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa handed over a copy of the book to Indian Air Force Group Captain Vinay Vittal on the occasion. Former Sarada Vilas College Principal Prof. M. Nataraj too spoke. Author S. Umesh and his wife Brunda Umesh and others were present.

'Abhyudaya Pathrakarta' awardees

Journalists, who were conferred with 'Abhyudaya Pathrakarta' award during the AGM of Mysuru District Journalists Abhyudaya Co-operative Society at Pathrakartara Bhavan in city on Sunday** — (sitting from left) **R. Suvarna (**Nagara Belaku**, Mysuru), Cheluvaraju (**Andolana**, Hunsur), Hullahalli Mohan (**Siri **Channel, Nanjangud), Dasegowda (**Kannada Prabha**, H.D. Kote), Akram Pasha (**Vijayavani**, T. Narasipur) and P.P. Mahadevu (**Nijadani**, Periyapatna) — are seen with MDJA General Secretary M. Subramanya, MDJA President S.T. Ravikumar (RK), Karnataka State Government Employees Association former President H.K. Ramu, Mysuru District Journalists Abhyudaya Co-operative Society President K. Deepak, K. Manjunath of Arthshastra Builders and Developers-Mysuru, Society Director & senior photojournalist Pragathi Gopalakrishna and others.

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (MTY&KS)- Six journalists were presented with 'Abhyudaya Pathrakarta' award during the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of Mysuru District Journalists Abhyudaya Co-operative Society held at Pathrakartara Bhavan here on Sunday.

Karnataka State Government Employees Association former President H.K. Ramu conferred the awards on journalists Hullahalli Mohan (*Siri* Channel, Nanjangud), Dasegowda (*Kannada Prabha*, H.D. Kote), Akram Pasha (*Vijayavani*, T. Narasipur), P.P. Mahadevu (*Nijadani*, Periyapatna), Cheluvaraju (*Andolana*, Hunsur) and R. Suvarna (*Nagara Belaku*, Mysuru).

Speaking after inaugurating the awards presentation function, Mysuru Milk Union Limited (MyMUL) President P.M. Prasanna said that the society was seeing development as Co-operative Societies were doing good works in managing finance and organisational works.

Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) President S.T. Ravikumar (RK), who too spoke, said that Abhyudaya Co-op Society has been helping journalists and added that a Civic Amenities (CA) site has been sanctioned for MDJA for which help from Abhyudaya Co-op. Society will be sought.

The calendar for the year 2022 was released by K. Manjunath of Arthshastra Builders and Developers-Mysuru on the occasion.

Mysuru District Journalists Abhyudaya Co-operative Society President K. Deepak, MDJA General Secretary M. Subramanya, Abhyudaya Co-operative Society Director Pragathi Gopalakrishna, Hanagod Nataraj, M.N. Kiran, Mahesh and others were present.

Blood donation camp held

Mysuru, Dec. 7 (KS)- Commemorating International Day of Persons with Disabilities and in memory of actor late Puneeth Rajkumar, Raktadhana Mahadhana Gobhakta Sanghatane Trust, in association with Jeevadhara Blood Bank, had organised a mega blood donation camp at Jeevadhara Blood Bank premises here recently.

Speaking after inaugurating the camp, District AIDS Control Officer Dr. Mohammed Shiraz Ahmed said that Jeevadhara Blood Bank had brought together blood donors during the time of COVID pandemic which had resulted in shortage of blood and had helped save many lives. Dr. Shiraz further said that the blood bank had also helped pregnant women, accident victims and others by supplying blood in the time of emergency.

Jeevadhara Blood Bank Director S.E. Girish and Raktadhana Mahadhana Gobhakta Sanghatane Trust President Devendra Parihariya also spoke. Muthanna, Dr. Radha, Anand Mandoth, Mahendar Choyal, Chiranjilal Kumavath, Suma, Bagadaram Kumavath, Kailash Rathor, Hemalatha, Prathap, Malini, Misba and others were present.

SKYWATCH

Heavenly visitor 'Leonard' at its best this month

It is a visual treat for the sky-gazers as a heavenly visitor comet 'Leonard' comes by this month. The brightest comet of the year will put up a great show in the sky of December. It shall be once in a lifetime experience as this comet won't be seen ever again. This comet is traveling at an impressive speed of 254,000km/h. This can be seen to the naked eye and shall be the best comet of this year. It can be seen in the morning sky during the first week on December and later after December 14, it will be perceptible in the evening sky, very close to Venus. Green Comet Leonard is about to pass close to Earth, which is the first time in 70,000 to 80,000 years. In the Northern Hemisphere, it can be seen in the east with the aid of small telescopes and binoculars.

The most beautiful and impulsive celestial object perceptible in the night or morning sky is the 'Comet'. Most of the time, comets remain in deep-frozen "sleep" in outer space, but sporadically they are dislodged from their orbits and fall forward the inner Solar System. Comets are at their brightest when they are closest to the Sun, it is best to search for them in the sky unswervingly after Sunset although never when the Sun is still above the horizon. In the months of December of this year and January of next year, fix your stares on the sky to watch the spasmodic comet 'Leonard'. Throughout December and January, it will be discernible in the Northern Hemisphere.

The behaviour of the comets is highly unpredictable. Comets large enough to be detected in the outer solar system may prove to have thick, insulating crusts that they never develop, whereas smaller comets may be as insubstantial as a snowball and melt away to fragments as they come closer to the Sun. A much-anticipated comet — C/2021 A1 (Leonard) — is probably to be 2021's best comet and its liveliest comet by year's end. The comet is currently heading Sunward, toward its perihelion (closest point to the Sun) on January 3, 2022. Comets are typically brightest around perihelion.

Comet Leonard has been in the morning sky and it just passed the beautiful globular star cluster M3. Senior research specialist Gregory Jacques Leonard at the Mount Lemmon Observatory near Tucson, Arizona, discovered the comet on January 3, 2021, when it was little more than a faint, distant speck. Since then, it's inched steadily closer to both the Sun and Earth and will reach perihelion on January 3, 2022. Three weeks prior, on Dec. 12, it will pass nearest the Earth at a distance of 21.7 million miles (34.9 million km). Over the coming month, as Comet Leonard heads Sunward, it'll sweep closest to Earth on Dec. 12. It won't be particularly close at its closest, passing more than 21 million miles (34 million km) away. But six days later, on Dec. 18, the comet will have an exceptionally close pass of Venus of just 2.6 million miles (4.2 million km). Then it'll round the Sun on Jan. 3, 2022, at a distance of about 56 million miles (0.6 AU, or 90 million km). Also, this month, one can see to three celebrated planets, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn, in line and meteor shower, Geminids will light up the night sky.

A striking feature of this celestial visitor is that it's an ultra-fast comet. It's traveling at 158,084 miles per hour (254,412 km/h or 70.67 km/second) relative to Earth. Despite its incredible speed through the vast space of our Solar System, don't expect to see this comet swoosh across the sky. Like planets, comets do move in front of the star background, but only very slowly due to the large distances involved. Is it possible to observe this comet's motion. Despite its high speed, you'll find that its distance from Earth — and the vast distances in our Solar System — will cause the comet to appear as a very slow-moving object.

Professional observatories rarely has time to devout to scan skies in search of new celestial objects, so amateur astronomers using simple equipment often discover comets. Presently, 'Leonard' can be seen in northeast direction directing towards 'Bootes' constellation at a visual magnitude of 5 and has been getting brighter and larger since first week in December. **This comet is presently undoubtedly a morning comet during the first week of December and is clearly discernible in the evening sky very close to Venus with a visual magnitude of 4 or 5, even from small telescopes after Decembers 14 after Sunset, provided the evening sky is absolutely clear.** Note that, lesser the value of magnitude, greater the brightness. This comet can be located near planet Venus in the morning sky presently. Initially, Leonard was not expected to get much brighter than seventh or sixth magnitude, making it manageable only to those with good binoculars or small telescopes. A compromise of observations placed it at magnitude 8 on November 10 of this year.

Astronomers say it may be possible to witness this bright green iceberg after Sunset sometime in the evening later in the month. Comet Leonard will be closest to Earth on Dec. 12, 2021. On the morning of Dec. 6, 2021, the comet was about 5 degrees from the star Arcturus. On Dec. 14, 2021, the comet will be 14.7 degrees from the Sun and will quickly become better seen from the southern hemisphere.

The forward scattering of light could cause the comet to brighten to as much as magnitude -2. Although small binoculars and telescopes might be required for the celestial visitor, it will be noticeable at the same time we see a beautiful crescent (not too bright) moon. Even with the help of small telescopes and binoculars, the comet is noticeable. The comet is visible from all parts of India. Comet Leonard was seen almost 70,000 to 80,000 years ago and may not be discernible after this.

The various astronomical devices used to witness this particular comet are Celstron Nexstar11 telescope, Meade F3.3 focal reducer, and Stellacam II video camera and Canon 6D, 200 mm Lens f6.3, SO 800. Morning sky is somehow clear from moon light and is the advisable time to see this comet by revealing the magnanimity and elegance of sky watching. The reflecting telescope with 6-inch reflector will do to witness this comet. So enjoy watching 'Leonard' and reveal the magnificence of astronomy.

—Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna
Amateur Astronomer

Founder's Day and AGM of Elder Citizen's Council

Mysuru, Dec. 7- The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of Elder Citizen's Council, Jayalakshmipuram, will be held at Saraswathi Samudaya Bhavana in its premises on Dec. 12 at 9 am. Association President Krishnappa Gowda will preside.

It will be followed by observance of Founder's Day of Elder Citizens' Viswatha Mandali Trust, under the Chairmanship of S.V. Gowdappa, Chairman of the Trust. The programme will be inaugurated by Dr. P. Giri Gowda, retired Joint Director, Horticulture Department. Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Mysore University, will be the chief guest. Five senior members of the Association will be felicitated, according to a press release from Council Secretary K.V. Ramanath.

For details, contact Mob: 94489-79349.

B.S. Pandit Memorial Concert

Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy, Vid. T.M. Krishna perform

Danseuse Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy performing at Sri M. Govinda Rao Memorial Auditorium in GSSSIETW premises on KRS Road in city recently as part of B.S. Pandit Memorial Concert 'Saraswati.'

Prof. B.S. Pandit

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Geetha Shishu Shikshana Sangha, Mysuru, had organised B.S. Pandit Memorial Concert 'Saraswati' in fond memory of the great educationist and visionary, late Prof. B.S. Pandit, Founder-Secretary of GSSS. The event was conducted for two days at Sri M. Govinda Rao Memorial Auditorium in GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women (GSSSIETW) premises on KRS Road here.

On Nov. 27, Classical dance was performed by the renowned dancer 'Natyarani Shanthala' awardee Dr. Vasundhara Doraswamy. Her performance was based on the theme 'Janani.' She enthralled the audience with her solo performance. She was accompanied by Nanda Kumar Unnikrishnan (vocal), Sandesh Bhargav (natuvanga), H.L. Shivashankaraswamy (mridanga), Krishna Prasad (flute) and Pradeshacharya (violin).

On Nov. 28, Karnatak Music Concert was presented by Ramon Magsaysay awardee Vid. T.M. Krishna. He created an attentive atmosphere in the listeners. His soft voice makes people listen to him with utmost attention. Akkarai Subhalakshmi (violin), N.C. Bharadwaj (mridanga) and Giridhar Udupa (ghata) had accompanied him.

Vid. T.M. Krishna presenting a Karnatak Music Concert as part of B.S. Pandit Memorial Concert 'Saraswati' at GSSSIETW in city recently.

WORD OF THE DAY

Feign

Pronunciation: FAYN.
Meaning: Feign means "to give a false appearance of something."
Origin: Feign is all about faking it, but that hasn't always been so. An early meaning of the word is "to fashion, form, or shape." That meaning comes from its Latin source: the verb fingere. In time, people began fashioning feign to suggest the act of forming, or giving shape to, false appearances.
Example: "For his part, Hopkins said Collins had surprised him the most this preseason, adding that he's never seen a 6-9 player who can do the things his fellow freshman can on the court. Hopkins ... also didn't attempt to feign surprise when told that every single one of his teammates had mentioned him by name when asked the same question." — Ben Roberts

THE ODD WORD

Farctate
Full; stuffed.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

A slap on the wrist

Meaning: The phrase 'A Slap on the Wrist' means to get a light punishment (for doing something wrong).
Origin: If you've done wrong and are caught, you probably feel fortunate to get away with just a slap on the wrist. The origin of the idiom 'a slap on the wrist' is probably 18th century England, as it was in this place and time that the word 'slap' began to be used not just literally, but figuratively. As punishments were often quite severe in those days, a slap on the wrist would have been considered to be extremely minor.
Example: "He should be in jail for what he did, but he got off with just a slap on the wrist."

QUOTE BOX

Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

— Benjamin Franklin

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Read between the lines.

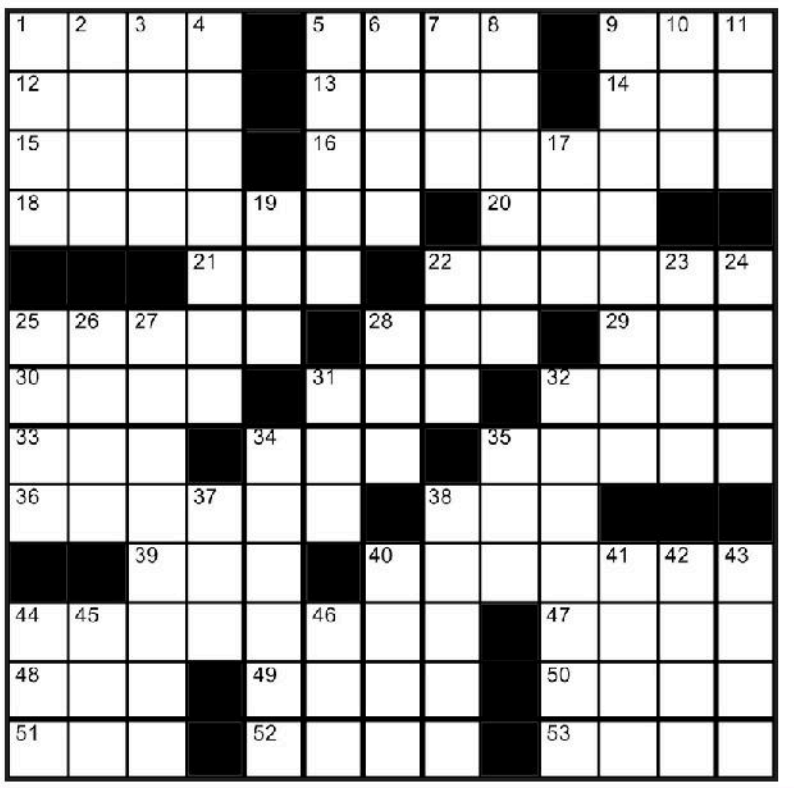
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Technology, in short?
5 Large mop
9 As being (Latin)
12 Girl's name
13 Hawaiian goose
14 U.S. Steamship
15 Thick and usually square or rectangular solid piece
16 Capital of UAE? (3,5)
18 College mates but in higher standards?
20 Long ____ : cricket fielding position?
21 Israel's __ Aviv
22 Affection, affinity; temperature
25 Clergyman
28 Isle of Man, initially
29 Anger, literally speaking?
30 In _ __ : stagnant? (1,3)
31 Motel kin
32 Angers or rages
33 Tic ___ toe : children's game?
34 Noah's ship
35 Leg joints
36 Parrot's outburst
38 Set of equipment
39 "The Simpsons" bartender
40 Phil Collins' rock group
44 For all to see
47 ___ avis : the rare mythical bird?
48 Primate
49 Clarified butter
50 Kinds, types or sorts
51 Kazakhstan formerly: abbr.
52 Attention
53 Netting

DOWN
1 Hardy heroine
2 Vogue competitor
3 Followers of a Scottish chieftain
4 Environment
5 Growl angrily
6 They are woven by spiders
7 Music director Malik
8 Pandemonium
9 Bog or marsh
10 Computer port
11 Airspeed Indicator
17 Personal pronoun
19 Over in verse
22 Gained
23 Oak for example
24 Myra ___ : famous pianist?
25 Dye containers
26 Middle-East country, capital Baghdad
27 Salad vegetable
28 Marking fluid
31 Bother
32 In the ____ : in the meanwhile?
34 Anchors ___ : off to sea?
35 Family
37 U.S. net giant: abbr.
38 ___ in: Typed
40 Great delight
41 An auction, perhaps
42 Causes irritation
43 Ornamental scarf
44 ___ du tout : not at all, in French ?
45 Bull periods
46 Fidel's friend Guevara

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

R	I	T	A	■	S	E	T	■	I	R	E	S
A	P	E	R	T	U	R	E	■	N	A	P	A
F	O	G	G	I	E	S	T	■	T	H	I	S
■	■	■	U	L	T	■	C	R	O	U	C	H
R	U	P	E	E	■	S	H	O	T	■	■	■
A	P	E	D	■	A	L	I	M	O	N	Y	■
S	O	S	■	S	T	O	L	A	■	C	U	B
■	N	O	V	E	L	T	Y	■	C	O	C	A
■	■	■	E	T	A	H	■	T	A	S	K	S
T	E	H	R	A	N	■	S	E	N	■	■	■
A	T	O	M	■	T	A	I	L	O	R	E	D
K	A	L	I	■	I	N	T	E	N	T	L	Y
A	S	I	N	■	S	S	E	■	S	O	L	E



SUDOKU

9	3			7			1	4
	4	5			6	2		
	1					7		
		4						
	7		9		2		8	
						3		
		1					7	
		3	5			1	9	
5	2			9			6	3

Answer to previous puzzle

6	8	1	5	9	7	2	3	4
9	4	2	8	6	3	5	1	7
5	3	7	2	1	4	6	8	9
7	6	3	4	8	9	1	5	2
4	9	8	1	5	2	3	7	6
2	1	5	3	7	6	4	9	8
3	5	4	7	2	8	9	6	1
8	2	9	6	3	1	7	4	5
1	7	6	9	4	5	8	2	3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

JON PRDG MNDCVN DJPNGACOW

GJ ZN KBCQN.

TODAY'S CLUE: W EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Man is distinguished from all other creatures by the faculty of laughter.

NOW SHOWING - MOVIES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — Ph: 2443568
  Sakath (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — Mob: 9900820093
  Madhagaja (K)- 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — Ph: 2521923
  Madhagaja (K)- 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — Ph: 2452958
  Madhagaja (K)- 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — Ph: 2520494
  Mugil Pete (K) - 2 Shows; *Tadap (H)* - 2 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — Ph: 2420885
  Marakkar (K)- 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — Ph: 2422871
  Bhajarangi 2 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Uma Theatre** — Ph: 2520009
  Ellinda Aarambavo (K) 1 Show; Mallige (K) - 3 Shows
- **Sterling Theatre** — Ph: 2481170
  Antim (H) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — Ph: 2423554
  Antim (H) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — Ph: 2497199
  Antim (H) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Resident Evil: Welcome To Raccoon City (E)	(S-1)	10.20 am, 3.50 pm, 9.55 pm
Madhagaja (K)	(S-1)	1.05 pm
	(S-3)	10.05 am, 7.15 pm
Marakkar - Arabikkadalinte Simham (Ma)	(S-1)	6.30 pm; (S-4) 9.30 am
Sakkath (K)	(S-2)	10.05 am
	(S-4)	3.50 pm, 6.40 pm, 9.35 pm
Bachelor (Ta)	(S-2)	1.00 pm; (S-3) 4.00 pm
Tadap (H)	(S-2)	4.30 pm, 7.10 pm
	(S-3)	9.50 pm
Akhanda (Te)	(S-2)	9.45 pm
Maanaadu (Ta)	(S-3)	1.00 pm
Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana (K)	(S-4)	12.55 pm

PVR CINEMAS

Forum Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Madhagaja (K)	:	10.15 am, 1.10 pm, 6.55 pm, 9.50 pm
Sakkath (K)	:	12.30 pm, 6.45 pm
Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana (K)	:	12.40 pm, 2.45 pm, 9.50 pm
Tadap (H)	:	9.25 am, 12.15 pm, 4.05, 6.40 pm, 9.30 pm
Clifford: The Big Red (E)	:	3.05 pm, 9.25 pm
Resident Evil: Welcome To Raccoon City (E)	:	10.00 am, 12.25 pm, 7.10 pm
Marakkar - Arabikkadalinte Simham (Ma)	:	5.55 pm
Antim: The Final (H)	:	2.55 pm, 9.50 pm
Bachelor (Ta)	:	3.05 pm
Maanaadu (Ta)	:	3.35 pm
Akhanda (Te)	:	11.15 am, 6.10 pm
Skylab (Te)	:	9.40 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Madhagaja (K)	:	9.30 am, 3.20 pm, 6.50 pm, 9.40 pm
Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana (K)	:	9.50 am, 6.15 pm,
Resident Evil: Welcome To Raccoon City (E)	:	10.45 am, 4.20 pm
Bachelor (Ta)	:	11.25 am
100 (K)	:	12.25 pm
Sakkath (K)	:	1.15 pm, 4.05 pm, 9.45 pm
Tadap (H)	:	1.15 pm, 7.10 pm
Akhanda (Te)	:	3.00 pm, 9.40 pm
Maanaadu (Ta)	:	6.30 pm
Marakkar: Arabian Samudradha Simha (K)	:	10.00 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE — Ph: 2533444 / 2533456

Madhagaja (K)	(S-2)	9.55 am, 3.55 pm, 9.45 pm
	(S-3)	12.50 pm, 6.40 pm
Sakkath (K)	(S-1)	6.15 pm; (S-2) 12.45 pm
Tadap (H)	(S-4)	10.15 am, 4.25 pm, 9.55 pm
Resident Evil: Welcome To Raccoon City (E)	(S-3)	10.20 am; (S-4) 7.20 pm
Bachelor (Ta)	(S-1)	10.55 am, 2.35 pm
Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana (K)	(S-4)	1.10 pm
Nanna Hesaru Kishore Yelu Pass Yentu (K)	(S-2)	6.50 pm
Akshi (K)	(S-3)	3.45 pm
Marakkar - Arabikkadalinte Simham (Ma)	(S-1)	9.25 pm
Akhanda (Te)	(S-3)	9.35 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Sakkath (K)	(S-1)	10.15 am, 1 pm; (S-4) 6.40 pm
Garuda Gamana Vrishabha Vahana (K)	(S-1)	3.45 pm
Akhanda (Te)	(S-1)	6.35 pm; (S-3) 10.30 am
Tadap (H)	(S-1)	9.40 pm
	(S-4)	10.30 am, 1.00 pm
Madhagaja (K)	(S-2)	8.30 am, 11.10 am, 1.45 pm, 4.20 pm, 6.55 pm, 9.30 pm
Resident Evil: Welcome To Raccoon City (E)	(S-3)	1.35 pm, 3.50 pm
Marakkar - Arabikkadalinte Simham (Ma)	(S-3)	6.05 pm, 9.30 pm
Bachelor (Ta)	(S-4)	3.25 pm
Maanaadu (Ta)	(S-4)	9.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here.

MYSORE WINTER RACES 2021

(By Our Racing Correspondent)

HIOCTANE for Dr. Ishwari G.K. Balakrishnan Memorial Trophy

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Following are the selections for the 8th Day of Mysore Winter Races to be held here tomorrow (Wednesday - Dec. 8, 2021):

1. 2.00 PM — THE S. HAJEE MEMORIAL PLATE
1200 mts. - 2 years (TERMS)
1. SMART CADILLAC 2. EVERLY

2. 2.30 PM — THE FORMAL INVITATION PLATE
1100 mts. - rated 00 to 25
1. ASTARA 2. MONTE GRECO

3. 3.00 PM — THE SPARK OF LIFE PLATE
1400 mts. - rated 20 to 45
1. ASHWA FIGARO 2. SUPER BRAT

4. 3.30 PM — THE BABA BUDAN GIRI PLATE
1200 mts. - rated 75 and above
1. VACHAN 2. SEGERA

5. 4.00 PM — THE DR. ISHWARI G.K. BALAKRISHNAN MEMORIAL TROPHY
1800 mts. - rated 40 to 65
1. HIOCTANE 2. ORDER ORDER

6. 4.30 PM — THE HAMPI PLATE
1400 mts. - rated 40 to 65
1. D. THIRTEEN TWELVE 2. SPORTO

7. 5.00 PM — THE MYSORE ZOO PLATE
1400 mts. - rated 40 to 65
1. THEA'S GLORY 2. ROYAL COMMAND

DAY'S BEST: *VACHAN*

DOUBLE: *1. ASTARA 2. ASHWA FIGARO*

JACKPOT: *3, 4, 5, 6, 7*

I - TREBLE: *2, 3, 4* ***II - TREBLE:*** *5, 6, 7*

EXACTAS: *6, 7*

—Tipster PGC

EVENTS TODAY (DEC. 7)

- **Panache:** Designer Expo, The Quorum Hotel, Vinoba Road, **up to 8.30 pm.** [Mob: 98453-69136]
- **Indian Art and Craft Shopping Festival-2021:** Christmas Carnival, expo-cum-sale of over 10,000 varieties of handlooms and handicrafts for all over India, Open Grounds, opposite Aishwarya Petrol Bunk, Hunsur Road, Vijayanagar I Stage, **up to 9.30 pm.**
- **Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) and Tourism Department:** Exhibition-2021, Dasara Exhibition Grounds, **3.30 pm to 9 pm.**
- **Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), Mysuru Local Centre:** Non-technical talk with power point on 'Energy, Economics & Climate Change' by Sudhir Vombatkere, IEI, JLB Road, next to MUDA Office, **6 pm.** [Open to the public; No admission fee]

EVENTS TOMORROW (DEC. 8)

- **Indian Art and Craft Shopping Festival-2021:** Christmas Carnival, expo-cum-sale of over 10,000 varieties of handlooms and handicrafts for all over India, Open Grounds, opposite Aishwarya Petrol Bunk, Hunsur Road, Vijayanagar I Stage, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Panache:** Designer Expo, The Quorum Hotel, Vinoba Road, **11 am to 8.30 pm.** [Mob: 98453-69136]
- **Karnataka Exhibition Authority (KEA) and Tourism Department:** Exhibition-2021, Dasara Exhibition Grounds, **3.30 pm to 9 pm.**

Bags PHSS Young Scientist National Award

Dr. C.D. Mohan

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Dr. C.D. Mohan, a faculty at the University of Mysore (UoM), has been chosen for Young Scientist (Life Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Agriculture Sciences) Award for the year 2020-21 given by Prof. H.S. Srivastava (PHSS) Foundation for Science and Society, Uttar Pradesh.

He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Studies in Molecular Biology, Manasagangothri. He works under the supervision of Prof. K.S. Rangappa, former Vice-Chancellor, UoM, on the discovery of small molecule modulators of cancer cell.

The National Award is given biennially by the PHSS Foundation to scientists under the age of 40 years in recognition of outstanding contribution in the emerging areas of science, technology, health, environment or agriculture. It carries a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 15,000 besides a life membership of the Foundation. Dr. Mohan is also the recipient of National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Awards-2019.

Free medicine distribution

Mysuru, Dec. 7- Seva Bharati Trust, Vishweshvaranagar, Mysuru, will be providing free medicines for cough, cold and asthma on Dec. 18.

Those in need may register their names before Dec. 12. For details, contact Mob: 96118-02730 or 94811-70530, according to a press release.

LOVING REMEMBRANCE

LATE PROF. C. VITTAL DAS

(14.03.1946 - 07.12.2020)
Ex-Principal and Professor
D.Banumaiah College of Arts and Commerce, Mysuru

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FOND REMEMBRANCE

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(Retd. Registrar, National Highways, KPWD)
Birth: 09/03/1952
Death: 26/11/2021
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Family, Relatives & Friends

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